

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 20, 2007. Claims 10, 11, 13-20 are pending in this application, with claims 13-18 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 10 and 19 are the independent claims presently under consideration. By the present Amendment, claims 10 and 19 have been amended. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, the claims have been amended with particular attention to the points raised in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by DE 10,154,692 to Ganter. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,752,562 to Mills et al. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by DE 3,223,302 to Leitner. Claims 10, 11, 19 and 20 were rejected under Section 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent 575,032 to Kimbrell.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits independent claims 10 and 19 are patentably distinct from the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 10 relates to a lock pin with push-button-operated axial locking, comprising a tubular body having radially outwards directed recesses, an actuating plunger in the

tubular body and axially displaceable under spring loading and a plurality of rigid locking elements pointing in opposite directions which are mounted in the radially outwards directed recesses in the body and which are moved by pressure of the plunger. A proximate end tip of the actuating plunger forms a bearing shaft that bears against the locking elements which form a pivot bearing shell for the bearing shaft.

Submitted herewith is a sworn translation of applicant's priority document. The sworn translation confirms Applicant's right to the March 25, 2003 foreign priority filing date and effectively antedates the May 28, 2003 publication date of the Ganter reference.

Mills et al., as understood by Applicant, relates to a quick install positive lock pin. A shaft member 16 is disposed within an interior cavity of a handle housing 14. Retention mechanisms 18 each include a plate portion 80 and a projection portion 82. An axle 86 connects the two plate portions 80 together. The axle also passes through apertures 76 formed in the lower end of the shaft member 16.

Leitner, as understood by Applicant, relates to a securing bolt which can be inserted from one side into through holes in components, as far as a stop. It appears that shaft 16 is connected to locking portions 13 and 15 via an axle pin 11.

Kimbrell, as understood by Applicant, relates to a clevis pin. A tubular pin P receives a plunger A. Plunger A is slotted near its lower end to receive one or more keys K which are pivoted at their inner ends on pivot-pin f which passes transversely through the middle of the slot.

However, Applicant finds no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a lock pin in which a proximate end tip of the actuating plunger forms a bearing shaft that bears against the locking

elements which form a pivot bearing shell for the bearing shaft, as recited in independent claim 10.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 10 is patentably distinct from the cited art. In addition, Applicant submits independent claim 19 is patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

It is believed that each of the claims is now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our deposit account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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